

as adjusted service pay; (2) the payments and loans to be made on adjusted service certificates; and (3) the payments involved in the so-called farm or home aid.

The most conservative estimates show that the bill would cost from about \$1,500,000,000 (if the bulk of the payments were on account of adjusted service pay, the greater part of which would fall in the near future) to about \$2,500,000,000 (if most veterans elected to take adjusted service certificates), the payments on which would be distributed over a period of twenty years. The actual cost of the bill should fall between these two extremes, according to the choice of plan made by the veterans. If, as seems probable, at least one-half should elect the cash payment plan and about one-half the certificate plan, with one-third of the latter borrowing on their certificates, the ultimate cost of the bill, it is estimated, would be \$2,250,000,000. These estimates take no account of expenses of administration or possible cost of affording vocational training aid, farm or home aid, or land settlement aid to veterans who elect such benefit. These will involve substantial additional expenses. Under title V. of the bill, for example, any veteran who elects farm or home aid may obtain in full payment or in installments an amount equal to his adjusted service pay increased by 40 per cent. for the purpose of enabling him on or after January 1, 1922, to purchase or make improvements on a city or suburban home or farm. If any considerable proportion of the veterans should choose this form of aid, the effect would be to throw a heavier expense into the first two or three years, and perhaps greatly increase the aggregate cost of the plan.

Would Strain Finances.

"These estimates, incomplete as they are, show the heavy obligation to which the pending bill would commit the country. To impose these vast additional liabilities upon the Treasury, particularly under present conditions in industry and commerce, would in my judgment create a serious situation. "Not the least disturbing feature of the bill is the plan to postpone actual distribution of the principal benefits conferred by the bill to the fiscal year 1922. This means that without covering immediate benefits on ex-service men, the country would be committing itself to a stupendous indeterminate liability which, once assumed, it would have to carry through no matter how embarrassing it might prove to the finances of the Government and the business of the country in the year 1922. This means that the bill tends to mislead the people into the belief that in some way the proposed programme can be accomplished without imposing a serious burden on the Treasury of the country. The result is to secure for the bill more favorable consideration than it could receive were the situation presented in its true light.

"As a matter of fact, a plan to disburse even over a period of years up to four or five years the debt of the adjusted compensation must inevitably increase by that much the war burden which the American people have to bear. It would greatly swell the cost of government and virtually defeat the administration's programme of economy and retrenchment. It could be financed only by adding to the burden of debt and taxes under which the country is now staggering. However financed, no such sum could be taken out of the public Treasury without throwing a corresponding loss upon the whole people in the form of increased interest charges, increased taxes and increased cost of living. This burden, moreover, would be in addition to that already imposed in most of the States which have provided bonuses in varying degrees of liberality to veterans of the late war.

Tells of Other Burdens.

"Nor could the vast payments required by the bill be financed without introducing grave complications into the refunding operations which would be necessary within the next few years. The Government has to face early maturities of public debt amounting to about \$7,500,000,000, of which about \$5,000,000,000 fall in the same fiscal year in which it is proposed to begin cash payments under the bill. The greater part of this maturing debt will have to be refunded and if a soldiers bonus must also be financed the cost of that refunding will be vastly increased and the refunding operations themselves seriously embarrassed. The market for outstanding Government securities would be adversely affected and the patriotic holders of Liberty bonds, instead of looking forward to improved market conditions, would have to face the threat of further depression. I know of no one thing for

example that would so greatly strengthen the market for Liberty bonds as the assurance that Congress had once and for all given up consideration of a soldiers bonus. "I have already submitted to Congress, in my letter of April 20 to the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, a detailed statement of the condition of the Treasury, the latest estimates of the receipts and expenditures of the Government for the fiscal years 1921 and 1922, and an outline of the Treasury's programme for dealing with the short dated debt. The figures given in that letter show that even without any expenditures on account of adjusted compensation under the proposed bill, there is grave danger that the necessary expenditures of the Government in the near future will exceed its current receipts, thus leaving deficits to be met by new taxes or further borrowing.

Would Deter Action.

"In these circumstances, I believe that the best interests of the country demand that action be deferred upon the soldiers' bonus or the bill to provide so-called adjusted compensation. This is not a time to impose several billion dollars of new liabilities on an already overburdened Treasury. It seems particularly inappropriate to give present consideration to the measure when we still have before us the pressing problem of revising the internal tax laws and finding sufficient revenues to meet the existing requirements of the Government.

"This problem must be dealt with in the midst of extreme and widespread industrial depression. These conditions affect not only every industry in our own country, but are worldwide, and our past experience furnishes no sure guide as to their duration. The revision of the tax laws, therefore, as to adjust them to present conditions and at the same time produce sufficient revenues to meet the existing requirements of the Government, is a matter of great difficulty, and even without the burden which would be imposed by the bonus, industrial and commercial earnings in the current year have so decreased that it is a matter of grave concern to every citizen as to the amount of revenue that will be received in 1922.

"The country is under a solemn obligation to those who fought its war, concern, of course, should be to make full provision for the needs of disabled veterans. To that object the country is pledged to give without stint of its resources. It would be unfortunate if the extreme while we are still struggling with that problem to dissipate our resources in a sweeping plan for cash payments to able bodied soldiers and sailors. The best interests of the veterans cannot in the last analysis be considered separate and apart from the best interests of the country as a whole, and I should be derelict in my duty to the country and to the veterans themselves if I failed to give this warning of the inevitable financial consequences to those who fought its war. Our finances are inescapable and I have already indicated what they would be. It would also involve grave danger of renewed inflation, increased commodity prices and unsettled business conditions. "The result would be serious injury and loss to the whole community, and in the long run even the veterans themselves would lose far more than they would gain. I cannot bring myself to believe that this would be 'adjusted compensation' for a service that was performed at the highest duty of citizenship and a sacrifice that can never be measured in terms of money."

WANAMAKER SEEKS AID FOR BIG CELEBRATION

Sees Harding in Regard to Fair in Philadelphia.

WASHINGTON, July 6.—John Wanamaker of Philadelphia and J. Ogden Armour of Chicago talked over business conditions to-day with President Harding and remained for luncheon at the White House. They declined to reveal details of their discussion with the President.

It is understood that among other things Mr. Wanamaker sought to obtain the President's aid in making a great national event of the celebration which is to be held in Philadelphia in 1926 to mark the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

It was said that Mr. Harding expressed sympathetic interest in the plan and asked that he be kept advised as to the steps taken toward expanding the celebration into a world exposition.

THREE NEW ECONOMY STEPS ARE ORDERED

Dawes Directs Inventory to Utilize Equipment Left Over From War.

HALTS FILING WASTES

Blair Begins Crusade Against Income Tax Delinquents and Evaders.

ROOSEVELT ORDERS SALES

Timber Forest and Obsolete Battleships to Go in Naval Retrenchment.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Washington, D. C., July 6. After a holiday lull three new efforts toward Government economy were made to-day. They were:

Gen. Charles G. Dawes, Budget Director, ordered the first comprehensive Government inventory ever taken with a view to gathering-up and utilizing or disposing of Government property left over from the war. This second hand material will have to be drawn by requisition officers in place of new supplies.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Blair began a new check to collect delinquent taxes, bringing up Government receipts and for simplification of methods which will reduce cost of collections. Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, defined a retrenchment policy which provides for sale or utilization of all dead material, even including old battleships.

For Elimination of Waste.

Director Dawes began cutting down on unnecessary Government purchases of supplies by issuing strict orders to all Government heads to institute an immediate survey of their establishments, to determine actual equipment needs and to return to the Government supply committee, for proper disposition, materials and supplies that are not being employed efficiently.

Director Dawes' orders marked the first big step in execution of the economy programme to eliminate tremendous waste of public funds in promiscuous spending for supplies by Government purchasing officers.

This step, it was made plain by Director Dawes, is necessary to conserve existing appropriations and protect the Government against reckless spending for equipment which is not actually useful in the conduct of public business.

The orders stipulate that bureau heads hereafter will be restricted in their requirements for supplies to such articles as fall within the classification of standard contract articles. Government officials will not be allowed, Gen. Dawes said, to place orders for fancy or unusual types of furniture or other materials if it is possible to meet the needs of the public business with other types of equipment which may be just as

useful although slightly less ornamental and expensive. Gen. Dawes after one week in office discovered Government departments cluttered up with an accumulation of desks, filing cases and hand-somely designed furniture for which there is no real need. In the face of this equipment with congestion in practically every bureau, there stood out in the appropriations for the current fiscal year large items for office equipment purchased for which no justification could be found.

With few isolated exceptions, the budgets of every Government bureau, under the current appropriations, provided for extravagant allowances for equipment. In a number of cases the items revealed to Gen. Dawes a reckless disregard of the needs of some establishment and contemplated large outlays.

Restrictions on Storage.

Gen. Dawes also struck at the practice of Government heads guilty of squandering public funds by renting storage or office space, at unreasonable sums, for purposes of warehousing public records. Instructions given each bureau chief to-day direct that inactive filing cases, shall be abandoned. It also is directed that expensive filing equipment so used shall be removed to less expensive quarters. That part of Gen. Dawes' programme was decided upon after investigation disclosed that Government officials are maintaining, at heavy Government expense, storage space in some of the leading office buildings which are leased by the Government. The move to consolidate and transfer the so-called "inactive records" of the Government, will save the Government millions of dollars now spent in rentals for buildings in the "high rent" districts of Washington.

The budget bureau's programme, as it now develops, is the forerunner of steps to convert into money hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of Government property bought during the war, aside from supplies of a purely military character. The general supply committee, which controls the purchase and distribution of stocks and supplies for Government offices, has on hand an enormous quantity of materials of all kinds. Its surplus stock of typewriters alone exceeds \$10,000,000, for which there is no immediate or prospective use by the Government, even under any plans for expansion of existing bureaus.

Running over a list of hundreds of individual items of equipment it is found there are surplus stocks of furniture, which if sold at present prices would realize a net excess of \$50,000,000. Other items of equipment run into big figures. These surplus stocks will be greatly increased under Gen. Dawes' programme to force bureau heads to part with supplies for which there is no present or specific use. When all of these surplus stocks are returned to the general supply committee further orders may be issued governing the disposition of the materials, either to the public or in some other manner, which will effect a reimbursing to the Treasury for the war moneys thus expended.

Engaged in the present roundup of tax dodgers is a special squad of experts, a mobile force of 250 skilled operatives, together with 2,000 deputy internal revenue collectors. These forces will make mass attacks on dealers and make a searching investigation of their records and methods of business to reveal the extent of the frauds. In every case where

must be turned over to the general supply committee of the Treasury Department promptly for resale to other branches of the Government service.

"A thorough investigation must be made in every office of all files with a view to putting into active service or releasing to the general supply committee for resale, filing equipment which is not absolutely essential to the conduct of business. Active records should be consolidated and inactive records removed to less expensive transfer or storage cases.

"In providing furniture and equipment for offices only standard contract articles may be purchased in such cases as the property now in the possession of the Government is not obtainable by transfer.

"Responsible officials must make every effort to utilize such types and styles of equipment as are available from the surplus stocks, rather than to insist upon a particular style not so available. Where no typewriters are available for resale or transfer within the department, used typewriters in possession of the general supply committee of the Treasury Department must be utilized, irrespective of make."

After Tax Evaders. Revenue Commissioner Blair aimed a blow in the direction of greater efficiency in revenue administration to-day when he set the machinery of his entire bureau going in a crusade against tax evaders. Mr. Blair said the manner in which the Government has been defrauded has assumed the proportions of a "scandal."

He said the best men in his organization have been concentrated in a drive to correct present abuses and to punish tax delinquents. Mr. Blair said the present aim of the Administration is to reduce taxes and that the day of lower taxation can be speeded by forcing into line the thousands who have wilfully failed to meet their tax liability to the Government.

The present campaign started by the Internal Revenue Bureau is directed chiefly at dealers in soft drinks and other similar luxury items and amusement enterprises. Drug stores and other soft drink places are found to be robbing the Government of millions of dollars each month by failure to make accurate returns of taxes which they have exacted from consumers.

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